

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EURE-00 /072 W

----- 129562

P R 011606Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7178

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 10609

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY, UN

SUBJECT: REACTION TO UNGA SPEECHES OF THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN
MINISTER BITSIOS

1 SUMMARY: THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON CYPRUS IN HIS
SEPTEMBER 30 UNGA SPEECH WERE THE LEAD ITEM FOR NEWS
BROADCASTS AND FOR MOST ATHENS NEWSPAPERS OCTOBER 1.
FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' ADDRESS GOT SECOND BILLING, WITH
COVERAGE OF HIS REMARKS OCCASIONALLY SUBSUMED IN ARTICLES
ON THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH. INITIAL REACTION TO THE SPEECH,
WHICH WAS REPORTED FACTUALLY, HAS BEEN GENERALLY ONE OF
HOSTILE SKEPTICISM. HOWEVER, PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI
FINDS "KISSINGER'S NEW POSITIONS ON CYPRUS ARE IMPROVED."
AT THE OTHER EXTREME, MOSCOW-ORIENTED RIZOSPASTIS HEADLINES
"KISSINGER PROPOSED PARTITION OF CYPRUS." THERE HAS BEEN
ONLY LIMITED EDITORIAL COMMENT SO FAR AND THIS HAS BEEN
CRITICAL. END SUMMARY

2. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY
(ANA) DISPATCH FROM NEW YORK AND OTHER REPORTS ON THE
SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER 30 UNGA SPEECH CONCENTRATE ALMOST
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EXCLUSIVELY ON THE SECTION OF THE SPEECH DEALING WITH THE

CYPRUS QUESTION. THE ANA NOTES THAT THE SECRETARY PLEDGED THAT THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, KOREA AND CYPRUS AND THEN REPEATS VERBATIM HIS REMARKS ON CYPRUS AS REPORTED IN THE OCTOBER 1 WIRELESS FILE. THE DISPATCH CONCLUDES WITH THE COMMENT THAT "SURPRISE AND SATISFACTION WERE EXPRESSED OVER MR. KISSINGER'S REMARKS, PARTICULARLY THAT IN THE DAYS AHEAD THE U.S. WILL CONSULT ALONG THESE LINES WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES" AND QUOTES FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' STATEMENT THAT THE SPEECH WAS "VERY USEFUL."

3. THE ANA DISPATCH WAS PARAPHRASED WITHOUT COMMENT IN RADIO AND TV REPORTS, FOLLOWED BY SHORTER REPORTS ON FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' SPEECH.

4. PRESS COVERAGE TOOK THE SAME FORM AND, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT, MOST NEWSPAPERS STRESSED THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE SPEECH WHICH THEY INTERPRETED TO BE UNFAVORABLE AND A FEW WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL. AVGHI, ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR, NOTES THAT "THE KISSINGER PLAN" PROVIDES FOR A BIZONAL SETTLEMENT AND CONNECTS TURKISH TROOP WITHDRAWALS WITH THE PRIOR SETTLEMENT OF "SECURITY ISSUES." TO VIMA (LIBERA, OPPOSITION), QUOTING UNIDENTIFIED CYPRIOT SOURCES, CLAIMED THE SPEECH WAS "MORE PRO-TURKISH" THAN THE SECRETARY'S UNGA SPEECH LAST YEAR. APOYEVMATINI (PRO-GOVERNMENT) FOCUSES MORE ON THE AEGEAN, REPORTING THAT THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE US'S DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGER OF WAR THERE. THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT "THE DANGER OF CONFLICT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY HAS SPREAD TO OTHER ISSUES" LED TO HEADLINES IN THREE NEWSPAPERS THAT THERE WAS A DANGER OF A GREEK-TURKISH CLASH.

5. EARLY EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS SPARSE, BUT UNIFORMLY CRITICAL. VRADYNI (PRO-CARAMANLIS) FINDS THE SECRETARY COMPLETELY ALIGNED NOW WITH ANKARA ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND REGARDS HIS INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES AS AN ATTEMPT TO DELAY A SOLUTION AND IMPOSE HIS OWN CRITERIA ON IT. ESTIA (ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE WITH DIRECT TIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY) STATES THAT THE SECRETARY IS SUPPORTING THE FAIT ACCOMPLI OF CYPRUS' PARTITION, ACCEPTING, ONLY FOR APPEARANCE, SOME LIMITATION ON TURKISH-CONTROLLED TERRITORY. IT ALSO CRITICIZES FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS FOR FAILING TO REBUT THE SECRETARY WHEN HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO IN HIS OWN SPEECH LATER. IT CONCLUDES THAT GREECE'S CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE HAS ENCOURAGED TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE AND SUGGESTS THAT IF

GREECE WERE INTRANSIGENT AGAINST TURKEY, GREECE'S
WESTERN "FRIENDS" WOULD DEAL WITH IT IN A
DIFFERENT SPIRIT. IN THE ONLY OTHER EDITORIAL,
RIZOSPASTIS ATTRIBUTES THE SECRETARY'S INTENTION TO
CONSULT ABOUT A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AS AN EFFORT TO
CHANNEL ANY SUCH CONSULTATIONS TOWARD A SOLUTION
FAVORABLE TO WASHINGTON, WHICH IT CONCLUDES WILL PROBABLY
SUCCEED BECAUSE OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S POLICE OF CONCESSIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS10609
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760370-1031
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761094/aaaaddrn.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO UNGA SPEECHES OF THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS 1 SUMMARY: THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON CYPRUS IN HI
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY, UN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006